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Re: Interview on 3-31-09 of Application No: 10/645,089

Best regards,

Manish Mehta
Manish K. Mehta

PAGE 2/5 * RCVD AT 3/30/2009 2:18:41 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/37 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:13123214299 * DURATION (mm-ss):00-46

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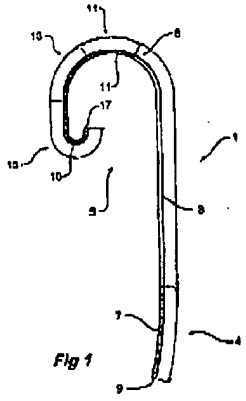
Application Serial Number 10/645,089– Examiner Rene Towa

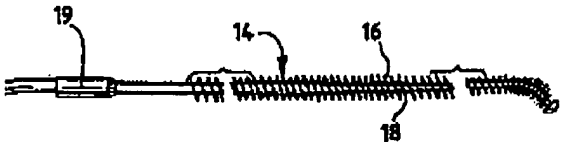
(Attorney Docket Number 12730-245 (PA-5340-RFB))

Representative Claim

A guide wire to assist percutaneous endovascular deployment within a thoracic arch region of an aorta, the guide wire having zones of varying stiffness comprising: a proximal zone of transition from high stiffness to semi-stiffness and having a length of from 3 cm to 20 cm; an elongate central zone of high stiffness and substantially constant diameter along its length; and a distal zone of transition from high stiffness to being relatively flexible and wherein the distal zone comprises a distal pre-formed curve with a radius of curvature of from 5 cm to 15 cm and being comprised of three zones: a semi stiff zone adjacent to the central zone; a transition zone having flexibility of from semi-stiff extending to flexible; and a tip zone having high flexibility and having a tip curve having a single direction of curvature with a radius of curvature of from 5 to 20 mm, the high flexibility and the direction and radius of curvature being selected so that the tip curve can bump into the aortic valve without causing damage.



Applicants' FIG. 1



Rodriguez's FIG. 1

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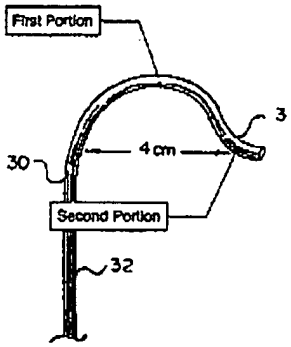


FIG. 5

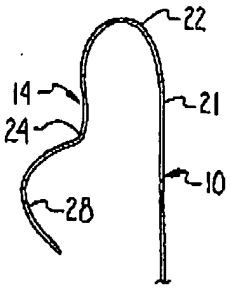
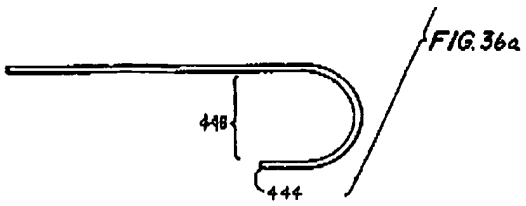


Fig. 1A



Chaisson's FIG. 5 Radisch's FIG. 1A Stevens's FIG. 36a

Referring to FIG. 1 of Rodriguez, the five claimed zones of varying stiffness are not disclosed in Rodriguez.

Rodriguez's disclosure, regarding the flexibility of the distal end is limited to the following: "Guidewire 10 defines a distal tip 14, having a resilient, flexible tip which comprises a tapered down, thin portion 16 of the guidewire surrounded by a coil spring." (Col. 2:66-68). Rodriguez does not teach or disclose the three zones within the distal zone or the respective stiffness of each of these zones.

Furthermore, the fact that the distal tip is also covered by a coil spring, which has independent resilient properties, further creates uncertainty as to the flexibility of the distal end.

Regarding Chaisson's FIG. 5, Radisch's FIG. 1A, and Stevens's FIG. 36a, the Examiner states that these references all disclose a preformed curve. However, Chaisson has a distal end includes a first portion with a first direction of curvature and a second portion with a second, and different, direction of curvature. It does not disclose a tip curve having a single direction of curvature which can bump into the aortic valve without causing damage. Moreover, the teachings of *Radisch* and *Chaisson* are directed towards guide wires which are shaped to enter into other vessels, such as the right coronary artery or carotid artery, from the aortic arch region. For example, *Chaisson* teaches a guide wire with a distal end which can be "manipulated and rotated (using fluoroscopy) to enter the right subclavian artery (see FIG. 10)." (Col. 4:33-35). The distal portion of the guide wire in *Chaisson* is designed specifically to accomplish this task. In contrast, the independent claims require a distal portion which "can bump into the aortic valve without causing damage," which is not designed to enter into other vessels from the aortic arch.

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Possible Amendments

Amend independent claims to more distinctly claim zones of stiffness.